


**REMARKS**

By the above amendment, the claims have been amended to delete multiple dependency and the government fees associated, and to correct the spelling of subjecting. This amendment is not being made in response to the prior art nor should this amendment be considered to be a narrowing amendment, and no estoppel should be associated therewith.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Makoto KAIBARA et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein *per 33,097*  
Reg. No. 29,027

December 12, 2003  
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